

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 04489 291228Z  
ACTION AF-10

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-----124738 291327Z /43  
R 291143Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5315

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 4489

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, LI  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: COUNTRY ACTION PLAN FOR MONROVIA

THE EMBASSY SUBMITS THE FOLLOWIING SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE  
SUBJECT COUNTRY ACTION PLAN:

SECTION A

PARAGRAPH 1: DROP LAST SENTENCE

PARAGRAPH 2: REMOVE PHRASE "PARTICULARLY IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT"

PARAGRAPH 3: REPLACE PORTION COVERING CORRUPTION WITH THE  
FOLLOWING: CORRUPTION IS PERVASIVE AND WAS STRONGLY  
CONDEMNED BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT IN HIS SIXTH ANNUAL  
MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE IN JANUARY AS A "DES-  
TRUCTIVE INFLUENCE" IMPEDING DEVELOPMENT. IN ORDER  
"TO ERADICATE ALL FORMS OF CORRUPTION" PRESIDENT  
TOLBERT ESTABLISHED THE NATIONAL FORCE FOR THE  
ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION IN AUGUST 1975.  
THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NFEC DESCRIBED  
123 CASES OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION BROUGHT TO ITS  
ATTENTION AND PINPOINTED THE GRANTING OF GOVERN-  
MENT CONTRACTS AND CONCESSIONS, THE ADMINISTRATION  
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OF JUSTICE AND THE PADDING OF PAYROLLS AS THE THREE  
WORST SOURCES OF CORRUPTION IN LIBERIA. THE  
SWIFT DISMISSAL OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER LOUIS  
ROSS IN MAY, APPARENTLY FOR MAKING PERSONAL USE  
OF IBRD FUNDS, IS AN INDICATION OF THE PROMPT  
ACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION WHICH CAN TAKE PLACE  
ONCE THE PRESIDENT BECOMES INVOLVED.

PARAGRAPH 4: DROP THE TWO SENTENCES BEGINNING "HE HAS..." AND  
ENDING "...AS A WHOLE."

SECTION B

PARAGRAPH 1: REPLACE FIRST PART OF PARAGRAPH AS FOLLOWS:

LIBERIA HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR RESTRICTIVE  
CITIZENSHIP POLICIES AND FOR HAVING ONLY A  
SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY. IN EXTENUATION, IT IS  
NOTED THAT LIBERIA WAS FOUNDED AS A HOMELAND  
FOR BLACKS, IN BOTH FREEDMEN AND SLAVES,  
FROM NORTH AMERICA, PARTICULARLY THE U.S.  
THE FOUNDING FATHERS INCLUDED IN THE LIBERIAN  
CONSTITUTION A CLAUSE LIMITING CITIZENSHIP  
TO "PERSONS OF NEGRO DESCENT",  
DEFINED LATER TO MEAN AT LEAST ONE-QUARTER  
NEGRO ANCESTRY. GIVEN THESE ORIGINS, LIBERIANS  
WOULD BE QUICK TO POINT TO THE IRONY OF  
CRITICISMS, ESPECIALLY FROM  
THE U.S., OF ALLEGED RACISM IN LIBERIAN LAW.

PARAGRAPH 1: RETAIN SECOND PART (ONE PARTY RULE).

PARAGRAPH 1: REPLACE THIRD PART (FLOGGINGS) AS FOLLOWS:

PUBLIC FLOGGINGS HAVE MET A MIXED REACTION.  
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MANY LIBERIANS CONSIDER THEM AN EFFECTIVE  
DETERRENT TO CRIME. CRITICISM HAS CENTERED  
NOT SO MUCH ON THEIR HARSH ASPECT BUT ON THE  
INEQUITY OF FLOGGING PETTY THIEVES WHILE  
CORRUPT HIGH OFFICIALS ARE MERELY CASHIERED.  
IN ANY CASE, FLOGGINGS HAVE BECOME LESS FRE-  
QUENT, AS A RESULT OF A DISPUTE BETWEEN THE  
POLICE AND THE COURTS AS TO WHICH SHOULD HAVE  
AUTHORITY TO SENTENCE CULPRITS TO FLOGGINGS  
AND ADMINISTER THEM.

PARAGRAPH 4: REPLACE "ANY ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST LIBERIA..."  
WITH "ANY OFFICIAL USG REPRESENTATIONS TO  
THE GOL..."  
CARTER

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## Message Attributes

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